

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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P R 191336Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 509

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SCUL UR

SUBJ: IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS FOR CORRESPONDENTS

REF: STATE 125125, MOSCOW 7875, STATE 132064, MOSCOW 5855,
MOSCOW 6521

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON MFA PRESS DIVISION ON JULY 17, AND WERE RECEIVED BY ACTING CHIEF B.D. PYADISHEV AND COUNSELOR F.S. FEDORENKO (RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS). EMBOFFS DELIVERED NON-PAPER, CHARACTERIZING IT AS POSSIBLE DEPARTURE POINT FOR FUTURE RELATIONS ON THIS AREA, AND REQUESTING SOVIETS GIVE IT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

2. PYADISHEV, SPEAKING FOR THE RECORD, SAID HE WELCOMED THE IDEA OF A GENERAL EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR AMERICAN S IN THE USSR AND SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS IN THE US. THE PAPER WOULD, OF COURSE, NEED STUDY BEFORE A REPLY COULD BE MADE, BUT TOUCHING ON THE MAIN POINTS, HE OFFERED THE FOLLOWING:

A) INTERNAL TRAVEL: SPECIAL EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO FACILITATE INTERNAL TRAVEL FOR WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS, AND PARTICULARLY FOR THE AMERICANS. HE CITED SOME RECENT EXAMPLES (REFTELS MOSCOW 5855, MOSCOW 6521).

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B) EXTERNAL TRAVEL: HE (AND FEDORENKO) KNEW OF NO RECENT

PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA;

C) ACCESS TO NEWS SOURCES; AGAIN, SPECIAL EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE IN THIS AREA AND RECENT EXAMPLES OF REPORTER-ACCESS CITED. FEDORENKO QUESTIONED WHETHER THE AMERICANS KNEW OF ANY EVENT WHERE EQUAL ACCESS HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED TO ALL CORRESPONDENTS. EMBOFFS CITED BREZHNEV NEWS CONFERENCE. "NOT A NEWS-CONFERENCE" FEDORENKO REPLIED, RATHER A "SPECIAL -INVITATION MEETING, TO WHICH REPRESENTATIVE S OF LEADING JOURNALS WERE INVITED." IN VIEW FACT EXCLUSION NYT AND L.A. TIMES BUREAUCHIEFS KNOWN TO ALL PRESENT, PYADISHEV WISELY ENDED THIS DISCUSSION BY GOING ON THE NEXT POINT;

D) IN RE "GENERAL APPROACH TO REPORTING AND LIMITATION ON NUMBERS, "PYADISHEV OBSERVED THAT SOVIETS WOULD NEVER LIMIT NUMBERS OF FOREIGN REPORTERS WHO WROTE " SERIOUS, TRUTHFUL, JUST" DISPATCHES. THE USSR, ON THE OTHER HAND, FELT NO OBLIGATION TO ENCOURAGE CORRESPONDENTS WHO WROTE FALSE, EXAGGERATED, ETC., ETC., ETC. EMBOFFS OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THE KEY POINTS ON WHICH WE DISAGREED, BUT THAT ON THIS AND OTHER POINTS, REASONABLE DISCUSSION MIGHT RESULT IN SATISFACTORY ACCOMMODATION.

3. EMBASSY EXPECTS PYADISHEV (OR SOFINSKIY ON HIS RETURN FROM LEAVE) WILL TAKE UP THE POINTS IN THE NON-PAPER IN A MORE FORMAL WAY AFTER STUDY.
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